

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Thomas G. Woolston Art Unit : 3625
Serial No. : 09/253,014 Examiner : Jeffrey A. Smith
Filed : February 19, 1999
Title : CONDUCTING AUCTIONS ON THE INTERNET

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATUS INQUIRY

This is a request for a status on the promised indication of allowable subject matter in U.S. patent application serial no 09/253,014. In recap, this case was appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, which reversed the rejection and established that much of the original rejection was improperly based on non-analogous art. Yet in spite of the board decision, the examiner assigned to the case at that time issued another non-final "first" office action rejecting the claimed subject matter. After that rejection the case was reassigned to Examiner Smith. We interviewed the case with Examiner Smith and proposed amendments to the claims that all agreed clearly recited patentable subject matter over the art of record. We were promised favorable action in this matter several months ago and are requesting an update on the status of the case. The last indication we have is that Examiner Smith had met with the new Central Reexamination Unit on this case and had a conference with the staff handling the co-pending reexamination of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,051, also assigned to MercExchange.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/15/06



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